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BOROUGH OF DARWEN



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1956.

R. C. WEBSTER

B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health

E. P. McGLYNN,

C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector

BOROUGH OF DARWEN

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary
Administration
OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

By R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

and E. P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

1956-57.

*COUNCILLOR A. KAY, J.P., MAYOR.

Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR T. V. KEELAN

Vice-Chairman:

*Coun. A. CARTER.

Ald. J. BRAITHWAITE.	Coun. W. K. COCKER.
Ald. Mrs. M. M. DUCKWORTH	Coun. W. CONROY.
*Ald. LADY HINDLE, J.P.	Coun. D. DAVIDSON.
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*Coun. Miss M. BROUGHTON. J.P.	*Coun. T. WINTERBOTTOM

CHARLES COUTTS BYERS, O.B.E., Town Clerk.

* Members of the Public Health Sub-Committee.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Officers.

Medical Officer of Health	{	R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.
Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire		
County Council		
Senior Public Health Inspector	{	EDMUND P. McGLYNN, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Insp. (Cert), M.A.P.H.I., R.S.P.H.
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods		
Director of Public Cleansing		
District Public Health Inspectors	{	J. HANDBY, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I., Inter C.I.S.
		H. RAMSBOTTOM, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I.
		P. H. WATSON, C.S.I.B., Cert. Insp. Meat and Other Foods, M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector's Articled Pupil	{	R.C. DAVIDSON, (Appointed 31/10/56)
Chief Clerk		J. BOLTON.
Clerical Staff	{	A. ALSTON.
		Miss M. DUCKWORTH (Appointed 5/1/57),
		Mrs. O. B. PARRY.
		F. TOWNLEY.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Name of Clinic or Centre.	Situation.	Day and Time.	By whom provided.
Child Welfare and Diphtheria Immunisation.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 2 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Child Welfare.	Greenfield Institute.	Tuesday 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. Wednesday, 2 p.m. 1st and 3rd Fridays. 9-30 a.m. (Specialist).	Lancashire County Council.
Ante-Natal Relaxation.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 2 p.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Maternity and Child Welfare Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Speech Therapy	Civic Health Centre.	Monday and Thursday a.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Ultra-Violet Light.	Civic Health Centre.	Tuesday, 2 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Dental.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
School Clinics.	Civic Health Centre.	Minor Ailments. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Tuesday and Friday, 2 p.m., by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Ophthalmic.	Civic Health Centre.	by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Ear, Nose and Throat.	Civic Health Centre.	Friday p.m. by appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Orthopædic.	Civic Health Centre.	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Lancashire County Council.
Chiropodist.	Civic Health Centre.	Monday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m., By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Cardiac Clinic for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.	Health Department, Victoria Street, Blackburn.	Alternate Tuesdays by appointment.	Blackburn Corporation.
Cardiac Clinic for Schoolchildren.	Tullyallan Open Air School, Darwen.	By appointment.	Lancashire County Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	Royal Infirmary Blackburn.	Thursday, 9-15 a.m. by appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Venereal Diseases	Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.	Males — Wednesday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Females — Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
B.C.G. Vaccination Prevention of Tuberculosis.	Civic Health Centre.	By appointment.	Manchester Regional Hospital Board.



CIVIC HEALTH CENTRE,

DARWEN.

June, 1957

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for 1956.

The only point that seems to call for comment outside the main body of the report, is to observe that in seven of the last ten years, deaths have exceeded births in the town, and for this and other reasons, the population is estimated to have dropped over 800 persons since the census of 1951. The proportion of older people in the community must necessarily tend to rise. However rosy our plans may be for the future of the community, however elaborate our schemes for the care of the aged, they are valueless without an adequate number of young, active members of the community to operate these future projects.

The low incidence of infectious disease, other than mild whooping cough, the low infant mortality, the absence of maternal mortality and a satisfactorily low still birth rate, are all pleasing features.

I thank all members of the staff for their zeal and efficiency, and the Committee for their unfailing interest and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. WEBSTER,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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PART I.

Statistics and Social Conditions

General Provisions of the Health Services

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

BY

R. C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Summary of Statistics and Social Conditions.

1956

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Geographical Position ...	Lat. 53° 41' 25" N. Lon. 2° 28' 32" W.
Elevation above sea level	500 ft. to over 800 ft.
Geological formation...	Boulder clay and sand, over coal measures.
Area (in acres)	5,959
Population—Census, 1951	30,827
Population — Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate for 1956	29,990
Number of Inhabited Houses—Census, 1951	10,634
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1956	10,762
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census, 1951	10,797
Rateable Value	£260,398
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£752

The inhabitants are mainly of the artisan, or working class, and the principal industries are cotton weaving, paper making and staining, plastic and paint manufacturing and engineering trades.

Of a total of 14,211 insured adult persons, the average per cent. unemployed was .85. The corresponding figures for 1955 were:— Insured adult persons, 14,211; Average per cent. unemployed was 1.28.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.	
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	194	190	384	Birth-rate per 1,000
	Illegitimate	10	11	21	Estimated home
					population mid-1956:
	Total	204	201	405	Crude 13.5
					Adjusted... 14.7
STILLBIRTHS:	Legitimate	2	5	7	
	Illegitimate	Nil	1	1	Rate per 1,000 total
	Total	2	6	8	Births 19
DEATHS:					Death-rate per 1,000
					estimated home
		248	214	462	population mid-1956:
					Crude 15.4
					Adjusted.... 15.2
MORTALITY RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION.	Respiratory T.B.				0.07
	Malignant Neoplasms, etc				2.80
MATERNAL MORTALITY.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion				Nil
	Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births				Nil

INFANTILE MORTALITY. (Infants under the age of 1 year.)				Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Legitimate Infants ...	6 ...	3 ...	9	.....	—
Illegitimate Infants ...	2 ...	Nil ...	2	.....	—
Total Deaths	8 ...	3 ...	11	.....	27

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year.	Darwen.	England and Wales.
1947	39	41
1948	31	34
1949	29	32
1950	36	29.8
1951	24	29.6
1952	34	27.6
1953	24	26.8
1954	28	25.5
1955	23	24.9
1956	27	23.8

OTHER INFANT DEATHS.			Rate per 1,000 population.	
	Total.			
Deaths from Measles (at all ages)	Nil	.....	0.000	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (at all ages)	Nil	.....	0.000	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil	.....	0.000	
(One child was officially recorded as having died from Diarrhoea at one year of age, but there was in fact a congenital abnormality of the intestine which was more probably the basic cause of this death).				

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.	Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age	7
	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	17

Births. The number of live births registered during the year was 405, giving a birth-rate adjusted by comparison with the estimated home population of 14.7 per 1,000. The trend of this rate over the past ten years, in comparison with the rate for England and Wales is shown in the following table—

Year.	DARWEN.			ENGLAND AND WALES.	
	No. of Births.			Rate per 1,000	Rate per 1,000
	Male.	Female.	Total.		
1947	303	274	577	19.0	20.5
1948	257	244	501	16.2	17.9
1949	213	238	451	14.6	16.7
1950	220	194	414	14.1	15.8
1951	235	214	449	15.5	15.5
1952	221	190	411	14.2	15.3
1953	223	240	463	16.1	15.5
1954	212	188	400	14.4	15.2
1955	211	222	433	15.6	15.0
1956	204	201	405	14.7	15.7

Illegitimate Births.—The following table shows the number of illegitimate births and deaths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Births.	Rate per cent. of Live Births.	No. of Deaths under 1 year.	Death Rate per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births
1947	21	3.64	Nil	Nil
1948	15	3.00	1	66
1949	18	3.99	Nil	Nil
1950	19	4.58	Nil	Nil
1951	17	3.76	1	58
1952	17	4.13	Nil	Nil
1953	16	3.45	Nil	Nil
1954	12	3.00	Nil	Nil
1955	18	4.15	Nil	Nil
1956	21	5.18	2	95

Stillbirths.—The table given below sets out details relating to stillbirths for the past ten years:—

Year.	No. of Stillbirths.			Rate per 1,000 Births.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.		DARWEN.	ENGLAND AND WALES.
1947	14	2	16	27	0.53	0.50
1948	12	Nil	12	24	0.39	0.42
1949	14	Nil	14	30	0.45	0.39
1950	17	Nil	17	39	0.54	0.37
1951	12	1	13	28	0.40	0.36
1952	11	3	14	33	0.45	0.35
1953	16	1	17	35	0.55	0.35
1954	13	Nil	13	31	0.42	0.36
1955	3	Nil	3	7	0.09	0.35
1956	7	1	8	19	0.26	0.37

Deaths.—The number of deaths of Darwen residents which occurred during the year was 462, representing an adjusted death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 15.2.

The trend of the death-rate of the Borough for the past ten years is shown below in comparison with the rate for England and Wales:—

Year.	DARWEN.		ENGLAND AND WALES. Rate per 1,000.
	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	
1947	486	16.0	12.0
1948	461	14.9	10.8
1949	525	14.6	11.7
1950	489	13.91	11.6
1951	571	16.4	12.5
1952	473	13.6	11.3
1953	438	12.7	11.4
1954	493	14.8	11.3
1955	464	14.0	11.7
1956	462	15.2	11.7

The following is a copy of the information supplied by the Registrar-General of the causes and sex distribution of deaths of Darwen residents. The information does not include non-civilian deaths:—

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	—	2
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	7	8	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	14	2	16
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	11	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	15	21	36
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	2	1	3
Diabetes	2	—	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	40	53	93
Coronary Disease, Angina	44	24	68
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	4	6
Other Heart Disease	36	43	79
Other Circulatory Disease	9	9	18
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	10	6	16
Bronchitis	21	7	28
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	3	—	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3	4
Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	—	5
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	3	1	4
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	19	9	28
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
All other Accidents	4	7	11
Suicide	2	2	4
Homicide and Operations of War	1	—	1
Totals	248	214	462

General Provisions of Health Services.

A comprehensive range of services is maintained by the Local Health Authority, Lancashire County Council, including Ante-Natal Clinics, Child Welfare Clinics, Ultra-Violet Light Clinics, Speech Therapy Clinics and other School Health Services.—Medical and Dental.

Ambulance service is provided by Lancashire County Council.

Hospital services are provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board, including general hospital facilities in Blackburn and a Maternity Home in the former Darwen Infectious Diseases Hospital at Bull Hill.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Pathological and Bacteriological Department of the Blackburn and East Lancashire Royal Infirmary undertake all Public Health laboratory work for the Borough of Darwen, in accordance with the Government scheme now being officially carried out in this area by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The numerical and age incidence of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, is shown in the following table, which includes particulars of Darwen cases notified and accepted, cases removed to hospital, and deaths from infectious diseases. The so-called minor infectious diseases, other than measles and whooping cough, are not included in the table, as they are not notifiable in Darwen and, therefore, statistics as to their incidence are not reliable.

Disease.	Cases Notified and Accepted										Hospital.		
	Total Cases at all Ages.	Years.									Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital from district	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Un- der 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 and over			
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	24	...	2	5	13	3	1	...	...	...	...	9	...
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup) .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid) ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excluding Rubella)	61	5	14	12	24	5	...	1	...	...	...	7	...
Whooping Cough	119	10	35	37	34	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
Acute Pneumonia: (Primary and Influenzal)	14	...	1	1	2	...	...	2	3	5	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...
Meningococcal Infection .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Non-Paralytic .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Encephalitis: Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neona- torum .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Malaria— Contracted in: England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	3	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	227	15	53	56	74	10	1	8	5	5	...	20	...

The following table gives the comparative incidence of infectious diseases during the past five years:—

Disease.	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	86	108	120	25	24
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	59	1	...	1	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding Paratyphoid)...	...	...	...	...	...
Paratyphoid Fever	1	...	...	1	...
Measles (excluding Rubella)...	473	30	664	509	61
Whooping Cough	41	186	93	25	119
Acute Pneumonia: (PPrimary and Influenzal) ..	18	25	21	10	14
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	3	19	5	3
Meningococcal Infection	1	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis:					
Paralytic .....	...	2	...	5	...
Non-Paralytic .....	...	...	...	2	...
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective .....	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious .....	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery .....	...	3	30	98	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	1	...	1	...
Erysipelas	2	2	1	1	3
Malaria—					
Contracted in:					
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	...	...
Abroad .....	...	...	1	...	...
Food Poisoning.....	..	10	1	324	3
Totals	681	371	950	1007	227

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to various Sanatoria under the Regional Hospital Board.

The Tuberculosis Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council and Regional Hospital Board, but the Area Tuberculosis Officer and Nurse maintain close co-operation with the Public Health Department, furnishing particulars about housing conditions, and environment generally. The necessary disinfection is carried out by the Public Health Department.

The following table shows the age group incidence of new cases of tuberculosis notified, and the deaths from the disease, during 1956:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0—1 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—2 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2—5 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10 .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25 .....	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45—55	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
55—65	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65—75	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
75 and upwards..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	9	5	2	...	2	...	...	...

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis placed on the Register during the last 10 years:—

Year.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
1947	23	5	13	8	49
1948	15	8	8	10	41
1949	6	12	5	2	25
1950	15	13	4	6	38
1951	12	14	3	4	33
1952	11	10	2	3	26
1953	9	2	7	5	23
1954	5	6	—	2	13
1955	6	6	1	6	19
1956	9	5	2	—	16

**NATIONAL
ASSISTANCE
ACT, 1948 & 1951
SECTION 47.**

No action taken under this Section.

PART II.
ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area
(including Public Cleansing)

Housing, and

Inspection and Supervision of Food

BY

E. P. McGLYNN, Esq., R.S.P.H., M.A.P.H.I., Etc.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC CLEANSING

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

Reservoirs.—Water is supplied on the constant system from the following reservoirs Sunnyhurst Hey, Earnsdale and Bull Hill, of which the first two are open, and the last closed. All the water is from moorland gathering grounds. Water in the Bull Hill Reservoir is supplied from Bolton. Two supplementary water supplies are also available when required from a borehole in the centre of the town and a mineshaft at Eccleshill piped to Sunnyhurst Reservoir.

Purification.—All water is sandfiltered and chlorinated.

Supply.—The approximate number of dwelling-houses supplied direct is 10,317.

SAMPLING.

Chemical. Sixteen samples of water from public supplies and one sample from a private supply were submitted for analysis during the year. Five of these samples were submitted for special fluoride and mineral analysis. The amount of fluorides found was of no significance. All were satisfactorily reported upon.

Bacteriological. Six samples of drinking water from four private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Four samples were satisfactorily reported upon, whilst two samples were unsatisfactorily reported upon.

Further samples of these supplies are being taken periodically. Users are advised on precautionary measures.

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODA- TION.

The table below gives the closet accommodation in the Borough:—

Pails	134
Water Closets	12,313
Waste Water Closets	1,193
Cesspools	1
Total	13,641

Conversions and Installations during 1956:—

New Water Closets fixed	273
Waste Water Closets converted to Water Closets...	81
Latrine Closets converted to Water Closets	—
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	2
Baths installed during the year	190
Urinals installed during the year	—
Waste Water Closets dismantled	1

Routine testing, inspection, repair and renewal of existing drains and sewers continued within the limits of availability of staff, material and labour.

It is hoped that closet conversions, will gradually result in the total abolition of the 1,193 waste water closets, though at the present rate of progress this will take another twenty years.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river is still somewhat polluted by industrial waste effluents, though rather less than in previous years. In addition there is a certain amount of material dumped in the river by children and careless householders.

The river is frequently inspected and every effort made to prevent pollution wherever the sources are discoverable.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of houses visited	726
Number of houses visited (Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 to 1932)	201
Number of inspections of Schools	5
Number of inspections of Factories and Workplaces	30
Number of inspections of Municipal Hostel	52
Number of inspections of Bakehouses	4
Number of inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds	1
Number of inspections of Refuse Tips	99
Complaints received and investigated	420
Number of re-inspections made	1949
Visits paid to houses (re cases of Infectious Diseases) ...	57
Number of rooms disinfected	85
Number of smoke observations taken	21
Number of drains, etc., tested	236
Total number of defects discovered	1303
Informal notices served	1303
Statutory Notices served	28
Number of nuisances abated, including outstanding nuisances from previous year	1115

LIST OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective drains	82
Choked and Defective Sewers	4
Defective soilpipes and water closets	23
Defective downspouts, easing troughs, roofs and external walls	51
Defective plastering	161
Defective Roofs and Damp Walls	147
Dirty houses and Premises	0
Dangerous Buildings	0
Dirty and dilapidated closets	42
Accumulations of Refuse	0
Defective or uneven gullies	16
Insanitary sinks	7
Defective fire ranges	26
Broken slop pipes	5

Defective Flushing Cisterns	0
Defective tippers of waste water closets	0
Choked waste water closets	39
Choked water closets	24
Insanitary yards	13
Defective internal floors	39
Insufficient ventilation	91
Burst water pipes	8
Defective wash boilers	8
*Miscellaneous nuisances	451

* The Miscellaneous Nuisances include such items as defective pointing, defective woodwork of doors, defective pointing and putty around windows, etc.

SHOPS.

Routine inspections are made and special inspections as occasion requires, but pressure of other work especially housing has limited visitation far below the level regarded as desirable.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twenty-one smoke observations were taken during the year, and advice and instructions to stokers on firing and use of fuel, to secure as far as possible the prevention of black or heavy smoking, were given. One of the main difficulties encountered in efforts towards smoke abatement is the variable quality and grade of the fuel supplied to manufacturers, who have little or no choice in particular supplies.

DISINFESTATION.

During the year sixty-three houses were found to be infested with vermin other than bugs. All of these had been disinfested by the end of the year, gaseous fumigation and spraying being the methods employed.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The following are established in the district:—Two tripe boilers, one fat extractor, and one fat melter.

MUNICIPAL HOSTEL.

This is the only common lodging house in the town and is municipally owned and managed. The average daily number of lodgers for the year was—Males, 109.78; Females, 12.20.

FACTORIES.

Thirty-one routine and special visits were paid to factories with and without mechanical power during the year for purposes of the provisions as to health. Defects found (chiefly in connection with sanitary conveniences) were notified to occupiers and by the end of the year were either completed or in hand. Pressure of other work still reduces routine visiting far below the level considered desirable.

As previously, the fullest co-operation was maintained between the Department and H.M. Inspector of Factories.

**CHIEF
SANITARY
REQUIREMENTS
OF THE
DISTRICT.**

The chief sanitary requirements of the district are:—

- The conversion of pail and waste water closets;
- The paving, culverting, embanking and, as far as possible, purification of the river;
- The clearance of derelict and neglected sites;
- The paving of back streets and unmade roads;
- The reduction of the number of private water supplies and the purification and protection of the remainder ;
- The conversion of latrine closets at factories.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The whole of this important sanitary service is under the control of the Public Health Department. It comprises the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse and the cleansing of streets.

VEHICLES.

The refuse collection and disposal service is completely mechanised, the tractor-drawn trailer tank for nightsoil collection being now in use for one day per week.

**REFUSE
COLLECTION.**

Reference was made in a recent Annual Report to the great difficulties experienced by the Department in keeping the refuse collection frequency at a reasonable level during the winter months. Full particulars were given there of the various factors which have arisen during the past 20 years which affect the position. These factors do not change with the passage of time and the Cleansing Committee has the service continually under review so that no expedient to improve the frequency may go untried. All the four districts into which the town is divided for refuse collection purposes are now serviced by vehicles which have maximum capacity consistent with manoeuvrability in the narrower streets. These vehicles are of the "fore-and-aft" tipping type and are proving very successful.

**REFUSE
DISPOSAL.**

The system of controlled tipping continues to be operated at the Corporation-owned Bull Hill Tip — the only one now in use. It is situated near the Southern boundary of the Borough which makes the length of haul from the Northern half somewhat excessive. It is hoped to find a suitable tip-site nearer the centre of the town in order to lessen this.

SALVAGE.

The pre-separation of salvable material from household refuse is still conscientiously carried out by the bulk of householders.

The following is a summary of the materials sold during the year:—

	Tons.	Cwts.
Clean Waste Papers	436	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ferrous Metals—Baled Tins	Nil	Nil
„ „ Black Scrap	28	17 $\frac{3}{4}$
Non-Ferrous Metals	0	5
Textiles—Rags, Carpets	13	2
Waste Foods—Pigswill (after boiling)	164	18
„ „ Household Bones	1	—
	—	—
Total	644	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	—	—

The total value of the salvaged materials sold was £3,967.

The price of waste paper and container waste dropped slightly again during the year, but so far there has been no difficulty in disposal. The former salvage depot in the old destructor works yard has now been closed, apart from the waste food plant, and a large Nissen type hut sited at Bull Hill Tip has replaced it.

SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the work done during 1956. It should be noted that the weights given below are estimated.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House refuse to Tip (4.438 loads)	7100	16	0
Market and Trade Refuse to Tip (344 loads)...	516	0	0
Receptacles Emptied (House Refuse)	370258		
Receptacles Emptied (Trade Refuse)	22368		
Excreta	109	Loads	
Excreta Pails Emptied	2911		
Sludge from Street Gullies	283	Loads	
Street Gullies Emptied	17740		
Sweepings: Bins from Street Orderly Trucks	2552		
Sweepings: Manuletric Trucks	643	Loads	
Dust Bins added during the year	121		
Number of Portable Refuse Receptacles	12767		
Length of Streets swept by Mechanical Sweeper ...	2825	Miles	
Length of Streets swept by Manuletric Trucks...	1710	Miles	

HOUSING.

The table below gives particulars of action taken specifically under the provisions of the Housing Acts in contradistinction to action under the Public Health Acts.

STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	107
(i) By Local Authority	100
(ii) By other Local Authorities	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	7
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above)	100
(ii) By other bodies (included under (a) (iii) above)	0
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	201
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	819
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 to 1932	201
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	267
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	61
2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices—	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers	14

STATISTICS
(continued).

3. Action under statutory powers during the year—	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	7
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
* (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
*One of these houses was demolished by the owner in consequence of a Sect. 53 Order, and one was demolished informally by the owner.	
* (3) Number of dwelling-houses closed as a result of Closing Orders made under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	32
*Fifteen of these houses had been virtually "closed" under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879. (See note on page 27) Since then Orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 have been applied to the premises.	
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0

STATISTICS
(continued).

	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
	(e) Houses closed informally by owners	0
	(f) Proceedings under Sections 25 and 29 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of Clearance or Compulsory Purchase Orders	5
4.	Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding—	
	(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	0
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	0
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	0
	(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
	(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	0
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0
5	Housing Act, 1949-54.	
	(a) (i) Number of schemes submitted—	
	(a) By private individuals to Local Authority	36
	(b) By Local Authority to Ministry	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	36
	(b) (i) Number of schemes approved—	
	(a) Of private individuals	35
	(b) Of the Local Authority	0
	(ii) Number of dwelling-houses affected	35
	(iii) Number of additional separate dwellings provided	0

OVERCROWDING.

“Overcrowding” as to mixed sexes in families, not involving legal overcrowding is fairly common in two-bedroomed houses, but is gradually being reduced.

**OVER DARWEN
IMPROVEMENT
ACT, 1879.**

Orders under Section 53 of the Over Darwen Improvement Act, 1879 had been previously made against fifteen houses considered to be unfit for human habitation, attaching a penalty to their continued letting. (See note under (c) (3) on page 26).

**GENERAL
OBSERVATIONS.**

The chief difficulty in housing work is the inability to secure extensive repairs by informal action with the result that statutory procedure has to be invoked with all the additional work and time involved.

It is perhaps worthy of note here that since the last Report the Corporation have taken over another 5 houses at the request of owners, in discharge of debt for default repair works or in

**GENERAL
OBSERVATIONS
(continued)**

anticipation of the service of notice therefor, under Section 9 of the Housing Act, making a total of 33 houses so far taken over. Four of these houses are included in Housing or Industrial Redevelopment Areas contemplated during the next five years.

In addition a further 15 houses of varying types and sizes have been acquired by the Corporation at the instance of, and by agreement with, the owners, making a total of 103 houses so far taken over of which 18 are in Housing or Industrial Redevelopment Schemes. They have all been or are to be repaired, the 18 patch-repaired, the remaining 85 fully repaired.

Inspection, survey and repair proceeded steadily throughout the year.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SAMPLING MILK.

Biological. Thirty-one samples were submitted for guinea pig inoculation. Thirty were reported as negative, but one was reported as positive.

Suitable action was taken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and information was received that clinical examination had been carried out and one animal removed for slaughter.

Bacteriological.—Thirty-three samples were examined during the year. Twenty-four were satisfactorily reported upon, and nine were unsatisfactorily reported upon. The reports were passed on for appropriate action to the County Agricultural Officer.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK—See Tables I and II below.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The Public Abattoir was closed in June, 1942, in pursuance of a Ministry of Food Scheme for further centralising slaughtering.

Butchers' and other food shops, stalls and vehicles, and premises used for the preparation of human food are regularly inspected.

The amount of food examined, certified unfit, and either destroyed or utilised after sterilisation for animal feeding-stuffs, was as shown in Table III on Page 31.

No legal proceedings were necessary in respect of unsound food during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The Local Authority, by direction of the Minister, is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Borough.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Public Analyst whose advice and help are always available and much valued.

The quality of the food sold in the district is generally good

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF OTHER FOODS—See Table I.

TABLE 1—SAMPLES REPORTED GENUINE

No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.
52	Milk	52	...
1	Beef Sausage	1	...
3	Gin	3	...
3	Whisky	3	...
3	Brandy	3	...
3	Rum	3	...
1	Sweet Vermouth	1	...
1	Pure Lemon Milk Flavouring	...	1
1	Strawberry Milk Flavouring..	...	1
1	Pineapple Milk Flavouring...	...	1
1	Ground Almonds .....	...	1
1	Christmas Pudding .....	...	1
1	Chicken Breasts in Chicken Jelly .....	...	1
1	Party Cake .....	...	1
1	Breakfast Tongues .....	...	1

TABLE II—SAMPLES REPORTED NOT GENUINE

Cons. No.	No. of Samples.	Description.	Formal.	Informal.	Result.	Action taken.
1	1	Milk	x	—	Deficient 11.6% fat and slightly low in solids-not-fat	Follow-up samples taken and found to be genuine. Vendor cautioned.
2	1	Pork Sausage	x	—	Meat content 64%	Vendor notified of deficiency.

**TABLE III—SHOWING AMOUNT AND NATURE OF FOOD
CONDEMNED DURING 1956.**

Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food	Amount.	Nature of Food.
53 tins	Assorted Fruit.	2 tins	Cream	1 jar	Marmalade
17 tins	Ox Tongues	4 tins	Stewed Steak	3 jars	Fruit Salad
22 tins	Luncheon Meat	2 tins	Chicken	1 jar	Cream
17 tins	Corned Beef	2 tins	Baked Beans	1 pkt	Cheese
1 tin	Ham	1 tin	Cereal	6-lbs.	Corned Beef
53 tins	Fish	2 tins	Crabmeat	70-lbs.	Chilled Beef
13 tins	Assorted	1 tin	Irish Stew	14-lbs.	Ox Tongue
	Vegetables	1 tin	Strained Egg/ Custard	38-lbs.	Ox Liver
9 tins	Tomatoes			1½ stones	Kippers
20 tins	Soups	4 tins	Creamed Rice		
35 tins	Milk	1 jar	Mincemeat		

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Investigation and disinfestation proceeded steadily throughout the year, and it has become increasingly obvious that the initial survey and co-ordinated treatments, and especially the comprehensive and radical treatment of the sewers, have reduced to a low level the degree of infestation in the town. This has been maintained now for ten years, and it is expected that regular re-survey, sewer maintenance treatment and block control, will keep it there or still further reduce it.

The following table gives a summary of the work done throughout the year—

No. of premises inspected.	No. of premises found infested.	No. of treatments carried out.	Estimated kill of rats.	Cumulative total of rats killed since inception of service.
	Killed	prior to January, 1956		17,958
480 (including 64 Hen Pens.)	141	Full Test 134 58	1749	19,707

SEWER TREATMENTS.

Date	No. of manholes treated.	Estimated kill.
May	371	601
November	412	830

INDEX

	PAGE.
INTRODUCTION	5
MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE	2
CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES	4
STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT	3

PART I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS	9, 10, 11, 12
BIRTHS—ILLEGITIMATE	9, 11
LEGITIMATE	9
LIVE BIRTHS	9, 10
STILL BIRTHS	9, 11
TOTAL BIRTHS	9, 10
DEATHS—CAUSES AND SEX DISTRIBUTION	12
INFANTILE MORTALITY	10
MATERNAL MORTALITY	9
NEO-NATAL MORTALITY	10
TOTAL DEATHS AND DEATH RATES	9, 11
OTHER INFANT DEATHS	10
GENERAL INFORMATION	9
GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES	13
PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE	14, 15, 16
COMPARATIVE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES	15
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 AND 1951	16
NUMERICAL AND AGE INCIDENCE	14
TUBERCULOSIS—GENERAL	16
AGE GROUP, INCIDENCE, NEW CASES, DEATHS	16

PART II.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	19 to 28
CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT	22
DISINFESTATION	21
FACTORIES	21
MUNICIPAL HOSTEL	21
NUISANCES DISCOVERED, LIST OF	20, 21
OFFENSIVE TRADES	21
PUBLIC CLEANSING—GENERAL	22
REFUSE DISPOSAL	22
SALVAGE	23
SUMMARY OF WORK DONE	23
VEHICLES	22
RIVERS AND STREAMS	20

	PAGE.
SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA	20
SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION	19, 20
SHOPS	21
SMOKE ABATEMENT	21
WATER—PURIFICATION	19
RESERVOIRS	19
SAMPLING	19
SUPPLY	19
 HOUSING	 25, 26, 27, 28
GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	27, 28
OVERCROWDING	27
OVER DARWEN IMPROVEMENT ACT, 1879	27
STATISTICS	25, 26, 27, 28
 INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	 29, 30, 31
FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING	29, 30
FOOD CONDEMNED	31
MEAT AND OTHER FOODS	29
MILK—SAMPLING	29, 30
RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION	31
SEWER TREATMENTS	31

